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Raising the bars

Costa Rican gymnast, MAC Freshman of the Year crosses borders on quest for CMU gold

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Abby Jenkins | Staff Photographer

Holland senior Elijah Van Order gets slimed at the Slime a President event to raise money for the Angel Wings Fund on Monday, March 27 on the UC Lawn.

On the cover

Nate Pappas | Staff Photographer

Luciana Alvarado-Reid shows off a tattoo of the Olympic rings while performing a handstand in front of the Costa Rican flag Tuesday, March 28, in Moore Hall.

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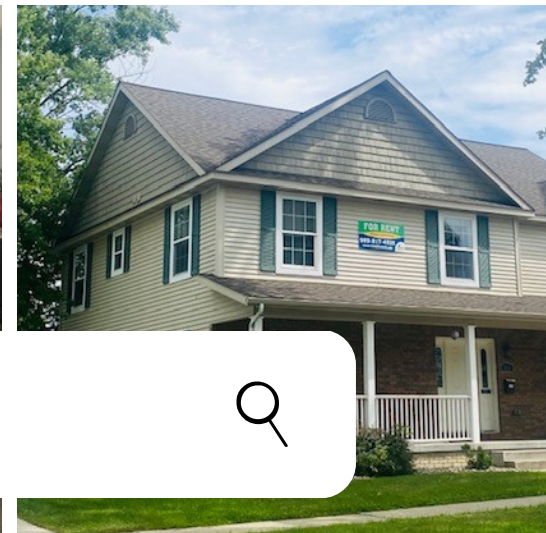
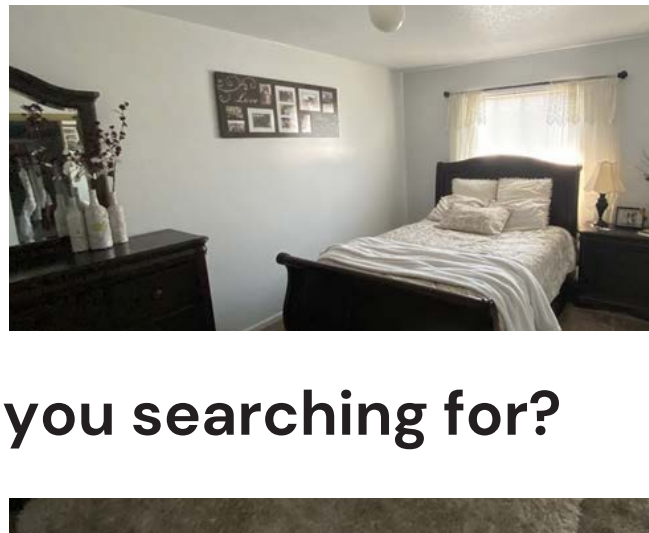
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'It's just crazy'

CMU athlete makes history in Tokyo and her mark in Mount Pleasant

By Hadlee Peters
Staff Reporter

Luciana Alvarado-Reid had a week and a half to train in the gym and get acclimated to the equipment to prepare herself before she stepped foot on the biggest stage in sports – the Olympics – as the first ever gymnast from Costa Rica to compete.

Now, Alvarado-Reid is a freshman on the gymnastics team at Central Michigan University, where she is a part of the back-to-back Mid-American Conference Champion team.

Ever since she was a little girl, Alvarado-Reid has competed in gymnastics. Her mother opened her own gym when Alvarado-Reid was young.

"She opened up her own gym when I was about two, I pretty much grew up there with my sisters, and did gymnastics because my mom was a coach," Alvarado-Reid said.

Before Alvarado-Reid made history, gymnastics was her hobby.

"When I was about 10 or 11, I started really liking competition, and I started going to camps and more international competitions so that was when I started getting a little more serious," Alvarado-Reid said.

Alvarado-Reid attended public elementary school when she was little, but as she got into high school she made the transition to homeschool in order to spend more time on training.

"I started junior elite when I was about 13 and that was my start of the Olympic quad for the Tokyo Olympics," she said. "I qualified in 2021 in the Pan American Championships, so it was a long process, pretty much my whole life."

Alvarado-Reid took gold on balance beam and bronze in the all-around in the Pan-American Championships in 2021, to qualify for the big stage.

One month later, Alvarado-Reid competed in the Tokyo Olympics



Jo Kenoshmeg | Staff Photographer

Freshman Luciana Alvarado-Reid performs on the balance beam during the CMU women's gymnastics meet against Bowling Green on Jan. 27 in McGuirk Arena. This performance earned her a score of 9.300.

as the first ever gymnast to represent Costa Rica.

Gymnasts have just a week and half to podium train in the competition arena with the judges to prepare for the actual meet.

In 2021, there were no spectators at the Olympics due to COVID-19. From the start of the games, it was unusually isolated.

"There was just the athletes so that was kind of weird, because we were, like, celebrating and trying to cheer but there were not a lot of people there," Alvarado-Reid said.

Alvarado-Reid was not the only member of her family to go to the Olympics -- not to compete but to coach. Her mom, who was her coach, was able to share the Olympic experience with her. Alvarado-Reid's sister helped choreograph both her Olympic routine and her floor routine at CMU.

"A lot of people always ask me, 'is it weird to be trained by your mom?' But it's pretty much all I've ever known, so it was just normal for me," Alvarado-Reid said. "It was beautiful for the both of us living our dreams together."

Gymnastics has been a part of Alvarado-Reid's family for generations. Her grandmother was a physical education teacher and took her mom to gymnastics camp in the summer. Both of Alvarado-Reid's sisters also competed in gymnastics.

Alvarado-Reid described her experience at the Olympics as "surreal."

"We were all preparing to march out and I remember seeing, like, Canada has an elite gymnast, she has won world medals, and she was nervous too, and everyone was just really anxious, but

just excited," Alvarado-Reid said. "When we walked out, you see the Olympic rings everywhere, and you get reminded that you are at the Olympics ... it's just crazy."

She went on to place 51st in the all-around on the global stage.

"You know that you're with the best in the world, and there's this energy of everyone being excited to be there," Alvarado-Reid said.

After the Olympics, she was ready for the next chapter of her life and knew she wanted to get an education, but she didn't want to let go of gymnastics.

"I didn't really want to quit gymnastics, but I also wanted to start college," Alvarado-Reid said. "We don't really have that back home, we don't really have college sports. You either do sports or you study."

Alvarado-Reid emailed different colleges without any particular

one in mind. Following a meeting with the coaches at CMU and members of the team, she knew it was the right choice for her.

"The coaches here are just so great and the team is just so great, so I was like, 'That's where I want to go,'" Alvarado-Reid said.

However, coming to a new environment as a native Spanish speaker also came with challenges.

"The hardest part was probably transitioning from training at my home gym with my mom and my family and my close teammates because we were a very small team," Alvarado-Reid said. "Then coming here and being with other coaches and having to learn gymnastics in English. ... because I knew how to speak English, but I didn't really know the gymnastics terms."

This season, the freshman scored a career high on vault and bars with a 9.900, beam with a 9.925, floor with a 9.875 and in the all-around a 39.400.

Alvarado-Reid's joyful personality and maturity makes her fit right in with the CMU gymnastics team, according to head coach Christine MacDonald.

"She brings a fresh perspective to gymnastics," MacDonald said. "She carries herself in a very confident and calm manner when she's in the gym. She trains really hard. ... She really put the time into the details and really embraced a new system, as far as training goes."

Alvarado-Reid was named the MAC Freshman of the Year, and she made the All-MAC tournament team after the Chippewas won the 2023 MAC Championship.

"Ever since the Olympics and college, I really just want to have fun doing meets," Alvarado-Reid said. "I used to be very stressed, and elite gymnastics is very serious. Everyone is quiet and in their own space. It was very individual."

"But college is pretty much all for your team, everything you do is for your team, and not the individual, you can just have fun."



Jo Kenoshmeg | Staff Photographer

Freshman Luciana Alvarado-Reid performs her floor routine during the CMU women's gymnastics meet against the Northern Illinois Huskies on Jan. 21 in McGuirk Arena. This performance earned her a score of 9.875.



Marie Underwood | Staff Photographer

Freshman Luciana Alvarado-Reid performs on floor during a meet against the Eastern Michigan Eagles on Feb. 3 in McGuirk Arena. Alvarado-Reid scored a 9.85 on this routine.



Jo Kenoshmeg | Staff Photographer

Freshman Luciana Alvarado-Reid performs on the uneven bars during the CMU women's gymnastics meet against the Bowling Green Falcons on Jan. 27 in McGuirk Arena. This performance earned her a score of 9.850.



Nate Pappas | Visual Editor

Luciana Alvarado-Reid throws the Costa Rican flag around her shoulder on March 28 in Moore Hall.

'In death, everyone is equal'

CMU student researches the women of WWII

By Lauren Rice
Staff Reporter

The Normandy American Cemetery (NAC) in France holds row after row of white crosses and stars of David to mark the 9,386 dead from World War II.

"When you picture someone in the war, it might look like a man in the army running up the beach with a gun," John Bolt said. He is the assistant superintendent of the NAC, one of only a few Americans living and working overseas at the cemetery.

Among the rows of headstones, only four belong to women.

Mary Barlow, Mary Bankston and Dolores Embrough were all women of color belonging to an all-Black, all-female auxiliary unit. Their unit was the only one of its kind in the Women's Army Corps and in the entire war.

"They were part of the 6888 Postal Battalion, called 'six triple eight' for short," Veronica Gregory, a graduate student and research assistant at the Central Michigan University Museum said. "I believe the ladies who are part of the Women's Army Corps had some training in the U.S., and then they were deployed overseas to start their duties there, which consisted of sorting and re-mailing mail to servicemen overseas."

Gregory was researching the three women, as well as the fourth — Elizabeth Richardson with the American Red Cross — before traveling to Normandy for spring break this semester. She was there with two other individuals from the museum department to provide background information during an ROTC staff ride.

"They were not patching up wounded people on the battlefield," Bolt said. "They were on the front lines. They were in vans providing comfort from home."

Gregory said this comfort took different forms.

"As part of the American Red Cross, the way (Richardson) supported morale was that she traveled around in this bus," Gregory said. "And it had a doughnut machine inside it."

"The women who were in this 'clubmobile' were supposed to make doughnuts but they actually got them shipped in a lot because the machine didn't work very well. And so



Veronica Gregory | Courtesy Photo
The headstone of Elizabeth Richardson, a member of the American Red Cross, at the Normandy American Cemetery alongside war dead from WWII. Photo Courtesy of Veronica Gregory.

they would give coffee and doughnuts to soldiers."

But for these four women, and those of the 6888th battalion, the war was not all doughnuts and coffee.

"During WWII, it was a U.S. government policy that there was segregation in the U.S. military," Bolt said.

He said at the time there were really two main branches to the military: the Army and the Navy.

"The Navy did not allow Black (service members) at all, or any race other than white," Bolt said.

Gregory said this affected the 6888th's experience as well.

"As I mentioned, they were all female and they were all African American, so they have received a lot of prejudice on both accounts," she said.

Eventually, their efforts were recognized. Bolt said they later received a Congressional Gold Medal.

According to the National WWII Museum, this is the highest possible civilian honor, and its bestowal on the four women of the 6888th battalion passed the 116th U.S. Congress unanimously in 2019.

"The irony of the NAC cemeteries is that

after the policies of segregation, in death, everyone is equal," Bolt said.

Women in the war

Across the U.S., women took up administrative positions and involved themselves in the war effort.

"If a man was doing an administrative job, not on the front lines, women could do that job and free a man to fight," Bolt said.

He said there were targeting units that worked to decide where and how to drop bombs. They tried to avoid destroying historical sites and important monuments.

He said women also helped to strategize with the so-called "Monuments Men."

"Famously, the aerial bombardments were not very accurate, but it was a new method," Bolt said. "They had units called targeting."

There was more work to be done on the home front as well.

"I know that women contributed to the war in a variety of ways," Gregory said. "Both American women and other women were part of a whole different management of resources and keeping their families together."

"Also, I believe some women were in-

involved in intelligence efforts. In the French Resistance there were women who were spies or communicated with other allied forces. Women worked as code-breakers."

Gregory said women at home also took up factory positions that men had to abandon, lending itself to the creation of "Rosie the Riveter."

"They were not involved in combat roles," Bolt said. "It is not to say they weren't close to that kind of action."

But why is it only those four women?

Bolt said the Normandy front lasted from D-Day, June 6, 1944, to August 1944, and the soldiers who died had to be buried.

"The soldiers that died during that battle were buried in temporary cemeteries," Bolt said.

He said the French government then purchased that land and offered new burial plots to those temporarily buried. After the war had ended, in 1947, families with deceased loved ones still overseas had to make a choice.

They could either have their loved one "repatriated" -- returned to be buried in American soil -- or they could have them buried in the Normandy American Cemetery.

Bolt said the government would pay for either option, as well as a one-time visit if family members had the remains stay overseas.

"It's a very powerful choice to make," he said.

But the four women buried in the cemetery were there mainly because of the timing of their deaths. Bolt said the three with the 6888th died in a Jeep accident in July 1945 in a town not far from Normandy, and Elizabeth Richardson lost her life in a plane crash the same year.

Because they had died while deceased American soldiers were being temporarily buried, they were put to rest as well, and their families later decided to have them stay overseas in the Normandy American Cemetery.

Bolt said there are several other American war cemeteries around Europe with the remains of women who contributed to the war.

"Normandy is not the only cemetery where women are buried," he said. "I think all of them have at least one or more."



A DAY IN THE LIFE

As we emerge from the dreary days of the pandemic, campus is alive every hour of the day. Central Michigan Life, Grand Central Magazine and other students partnered together to cover the action every single hour from 12 p.m on March 19 to 12 p.m on March 20. From early morning coffee shop openings to dancing in the annual Celebrating Life Pow Wow to midnight police ride alongs, we took over campus to show you what students, faculty and staff are up to around the clock. This gallery, selected with the help of CMU alumni, brings you a fresh look of the community you call home.



12 pm

Rebecca Particka | Grand Central
Hals Smedstad, a vocalist for the Grand Rapids band,
Gazewave, records in the recording studio in Moore
Hall on Central Michigan University's campus in Mount
Pleasant. Gazewave will be one of the artists featured on
Moore Media Records's Spring 2023 sampler album.



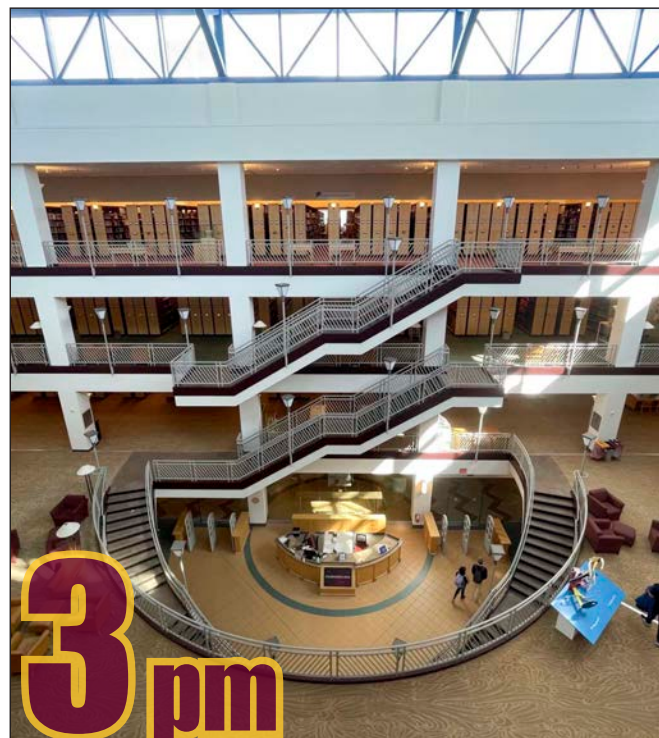
1 pm

Abby Jenkins | Staff Photographer
Senior Sowah Laryea coaches members of CMU's African
Student Association for the ASA fashion show on Sunday,
March 19 in the Student Activity Center.



2 pm

Lucas Bieganski | Ad Manager
A group of CMU students play a pick-up basketball game
on Sunday, March 19 in the Student Activity Center.



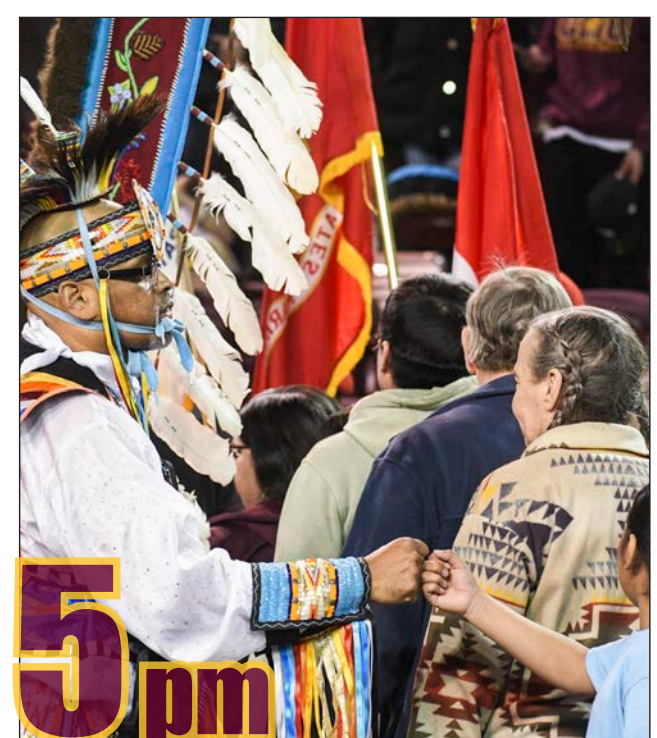
3 pm

Lucas Bieganski | Ad Manager
CMU students leave Park Library on Sunday, March 19.



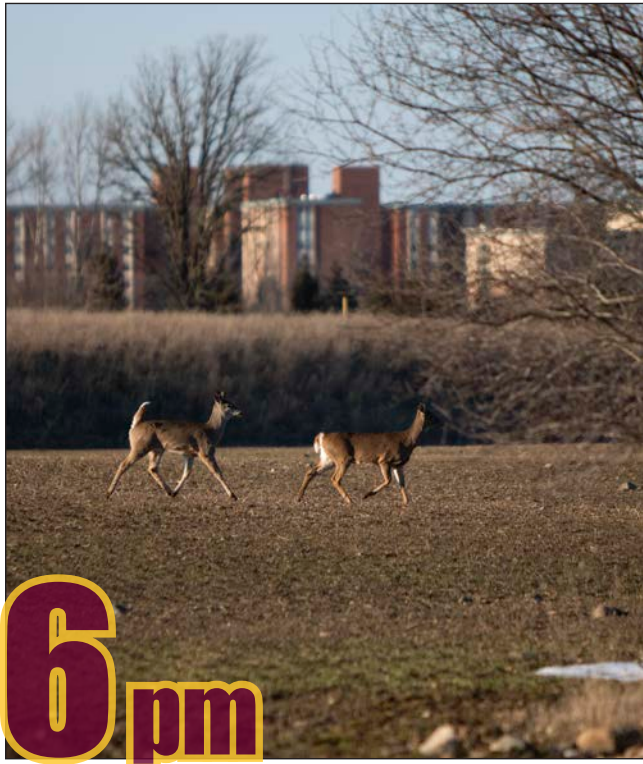
4 pm

Jo Kenoshmeg | Staff Photographer
Members of a drum circle participate in the hand drum
contest during the 34th Annual Celebrating Life Pow Wow
on Sunday, March 19 in McGuirk Arena.



5 pm

Jo Kenoshmeg | Staff Photographer
Head Veteran Walker Stonefish thanks and congratulates
the dancers and drummers involved in the Pow Wow on
Sunday, March 19 in McGuirk Arena. This concluded the
34th Annual Pow Wow at Central Michigan University.



Aurora Rae | Editor in Chief

Two deer walk across a field near Theunissen Stadium as the Towers Community stand in the background on Sunday, March 19 in Mount Pleasant.



Marie Underwood | Staff Photographer

Freshman Ryan Linton, top, hangs up decorations with junior Emma Doederlein, left, and freshman Lexi Galliers, right, before The Eras Tour Launch Party at 7 p.m. Sunday, March 19 in the French Auditorium. The group celebrated Swift's Era's Tour with a viewing of her Reputation Stadium Tour Film.



Alexandria Akins | Guest Photographer

Senior Hannah Henry scans into Merrill Hall for her nightly rounds as Terrace R.A. Saturday March 18, 2022 at Central Michigan University.



Marie Underwood | Staff Photographer

(From left) Junior Emma Doederlein and freshman Lexi Galliers make friendship bracelets during the Eras Tour Launch Party at 9 p.m. Sunday, March 19 in the French Auditorium. Fans plan to trade friendship bracelets at Taylor Swift's Eras Tour concert.



Maddy Welch | Guest Photographer

Students study late at night on Sunday, March 19, in Ponder in the Charles V Park Library.



Nico Mendoza | Assistant Visual Editor

Tim Denton vacuums the Dance Studio in the late hours of Sunday, March 19, in the Student Activity Center. Denton has been doing custodial work for over six years for CMU, Mount Pleasant High School and the county.



12 am
Nico Mendoza | Assistant Visual Editor
Makenna Longtin operates a floor scrubber during the early hours of Monday, March 20, in the SAC.



1 am
Nate Pappas | Visual Editor
CMUPD officer Josh Chapman talks with students during the early hours on Monday, March 20, in the Towers Community. Chapman, a community police in the Towers, works to build relationships with students by holding game nights and interacting with them often.



2 am
Nico Mendoza | Assistant Visual Editor
Desk manager and junior Lauren Kearney works at the Towers Residential Hall desk in the early morning hours of Monday, March 20, in the Towers lobby.



3 am
Nico Mendoza | Assistant Visual Editor
Desk manager and junior Lauren Kearney works and snacks on Mountain Dew and Cheetos during her shift in the early hours of Monday, March 20, in the Towers lobby.

- DEERFIELD VILLAGE
- JAMESTOWN APARTMENTS
- UNION SQUARE

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Nico Mendoza | Assistant Visual Editor
Senior Chase Nelson works on his senior animation project in the early morning hours of Monday, March 20, on the second floor of Wightman Hall.



Nico Mendoza | Assistant Visual Editor
Randy Delong prepares CMU's campus by ensuring affairs on campus are ready to go before people arrive in the morning, Monday, March 20, outside of Bovee University Center.



Rebecca Particka | Grand Central Carmella Contesti
helps prepare Ponder's location in the Park Library on CMU's campus in Mount Pleasant for the Monday morning crowd on March, 20.



Abby Jenkins | Staff Photographer
Bob Bissonette picks up trash Monday, March 20 outside Grawn Hall. Bissonette has been working at CMU doing trash pickup for 20 years.

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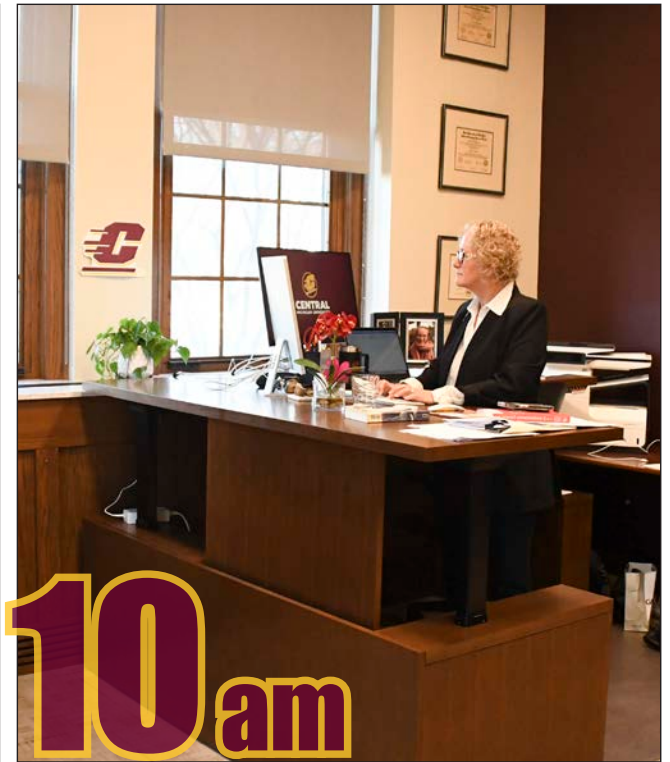
8 am

Sophie Paar | Staff Photographer
Central Michigan University students in a brass technique class play trumpets on Monday, March 20 in the music building.



9 am

Sophie Paar | Staff Photographer
Dance instructor Heather Trommer-Beardslee talks to her class as a student jumps in the air on Monday, March 20 in the Rose Center.



10 am

Ella Miller | Staff Photographer
Central Michigan University Provost Nancy Mathews sends work emails on her computer following a meeting on Monday, March 20 in Warriner Hall.



11 am

Aurora Rae | Editor in Chief
Hopkins sophomore Brianna Miller types on her laptop while sitting at a hightop table Monday, March 20 in the Bovee University Center in Mount Pleasant, Mich.

A day to remember

The Day-in-the-Life project was a massive undertaking that involved a team of 11 student photographers from two publications and one class, three student social media managers, two student media staff advisors, a journalism professor and four professional alumni who volunteered their time, talent and energy to guiding the team through the daunting editing process. The 24 photos highlighted here were winnowed down from more than 400 images captured over the course of one full day on campus. We wish to thank the many wonderful partners who gave us a glimpse into their roles here, and to extend our sincere appreciation to:

Photographers and social media

Nate Pappas
Nico Mendoza
Jo Kenoshmeg
Aurora Rae
Abby Jenkins
Alex Akins
Maddy Welch

Rebecca Patrick
Marie Underwood
Ella Miller
Lucak Biegnaski
Sophie Paar
Lexi Kuhl

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Steve Fecht, Steve Fecht Photography
Cody Scanlan, The Holland Sentinel
Lisa Yanick Litwiller, Center for Public Integrity

Women's History Month

By Masha Smahliuk and
Annaliese Damm
Staff Reporters

As March brings us to the discussion of women's rights and celebration of what women contributed to the world, six women from Mount Pleasant — your neighbors and friends — talk about facing and fighting stereotypes and building their way through life.

They shared their personal stories and advice. All united in one theme: the power of a woman.

Women in our community and their stories

Maureen Eke is an English faculty member and a chair at the Isabella County Human Rights Committee. Eke said she always loved doing research, reading literature and advocating for human rights.

"I am stubborn," Eke said. "I come from women who defined as warrior women."

Eke said the spirit of her ancestors, who were Aba women, gives her power. Aba women were women warriors fighting colonial England in Nigeria.

"I know who I am," Eke said. "I know what I can contribute. I know that I do my work ... If you don't want me, that is your problem. You are the one losing, not me."

Another thing that she said made her stubborn was the three years of the Nigerian Civil War in the 1970s. According to BBC, the Nigerian government started a massacre of the Biafra ethnic group.

"They shot civilian locations," Eke said. "They shot our hospitals, they shot our schools, shot our churches. ... They are not military targets. They did that to us."

Eke said she is a survivor and she has a lot to bring to this world.

Alexandria Alma is a Junior majoring in biology. She is also president of the Autism Spectrum Club on campus. Alma talked about her role in getting the club to where it is today and said she took it from a small, disorganized

meeting to a club with an executive board and a designated meeting space.

Alma said she worked hard to make it what it is today, and she loves it.

Rachael Agardy is a faculty member at the department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences.

Agardy grew up in Maryland and got her bachelor's degree from the University of North Carolina. She earned her master's degree from Texas A&M University. Agardy said she always had a passion for geology. She said it is a welcoming and developing field.

She also owns a business together with her husband. It is a coffeeshop in the downtown Mount Pleasant, Pleasant City Coffee. Agardy said she and her husband always loved coffee, and with their place they wanted to bring a European coffee shop to a small American town.

When the business has just opened in 2013, Agardy was helping out at the coffee place as well. Now Agardy said she is more focused on her work at CMU, and her husband can be mostly found at the coffee shop. However, she works "behind the scenes" when doing menu planning and finding products.

With her husband, they have five children.

Megan Bair and Lisa Sue discussed how they grew from showcasing local art in a restaurant to owning their own creative space downtown Mount Pleasant, For Arts Sake.

"We got together and it worked. It just worked," Sue said. "I love [Bair's] visions of everything. She wants to do something, I'm like, 'yeah, let's just do it.'"

Olivia Pozsgay is a senior studying Communication Sciences and Disorders. She is President of the Special Olympics College at CMU. Pozsgay said as soon as she joined CMU as a freshman, she "hit the ground running." She said she tried to talk to as many people as



Trent Reinke | Staff Photographer
Dr. Maureen Eke poses in her office, Room 240A in Anspach Hall, on the campus of Central Michigan University on Tuesday, March 28, 2023.

possible, attended several different RSO meetings and made friends doing so.

"I just want to be apart of something I can stand behind," she said. **Women's History Month and Women's Rights**

Pozsgay and Alma said Women's History Month was an educational opportunity for them. Alma said it allowed her to hear about a lot of women she hadn't known about before. She said these women faced so many trials but still made such big changes, and she hoped she could do that too.

Eke said she is hoping women's rights are respected in our society and that we talk about them not only during Women's History Month.

"We all have universal human rights," Eke said. "Women are human. Those rights apply to men. They also apply to women. Women's rights are also human rights."

Eke said one of the things that "threw away" women's rights recently was the overturn of the Roe v. Wade.

"Somebody now says, 'I have the right to determine what you do with your body,'" Eke said. "That is insanity."

Eke said the ban on abortions in the United States will set an "undemocratic example" for the



Trent Reinke | Staff Photographer
Alexandria Alma poses in Moore Hall on the campus of Central Michigan University on Tuesday, March 28, 2023.

whole world.

"People went back so many decades, centuries," Eke said. "It's a group of insane men ... who are obsessed with women's bodies or obsessed with power.... This affects not just women, (but) transgender identified people (and) men."

Stereotypes women face

"Women in power, you're automatically seen as rude or stuck-up," Pozsgay said. "We constantly have to be a hundred times better than anyone else just to be seen on the same level. And it's completely unfair."

Pozsgay also talked about how she feels on the flip side, if a woman is excited or "bubbly", they're equated to not being smart or not knowing what they're doing.

Bair echoed Pozsgay's thoughts. She said that for her, it can be hard approaching other businesses, because they could see her as a "bubblehead" if she's excited and not take her seriously.

Agardy recalled a situation when she had to set boundaries and enforce syllabus rules in class because students thought that a women professor would be "soft." At her classes she is no less soft than a man she said.

Besides, throughout her career Agardy worked as a geologist for different companies and did



Courtesy Photo
Headshot of Olivia Pozsgay. Courtesy of Dan Gaken, Director of Leadership Institute.

research.

"There has definitely been times where ... (people) weren't expecting a female geologist," Agardy said because sometimes they looked surprised. "A lot of the portrayals in movies like South Park is somebody's dad is a geologist. They're not female geologist."

Intersection of identities

"I would like to see change ... in leadership positions," Eke said. "I don't see enough of women of color in leadership positions."

Eke said Black women survived slavery and genocides and come from a whole line of survivors. Women of color still experience racism, she said.

"If you see oppression, discrimination, you need to challenge it," Eke said. "You need to speak up ... You cannot be quiet in the face of atrocity."

Eke said she refuses to be distracted or annoyed by racism. She said knowing who you are and speaking up for change is important.

"If you're violating my rights, you're also violating your own integrity or your own dignity," Eke said. "... you want to dehumanize me, well, directly or indirectly you are dehumanizing yourself, whether you realize it or not."

HISTORY|

CONTINUED FROM 13

How society can fight stereotypes against women

Alma and Pozsgay said one way to fight stereotypes is talking about them. Alma said people need to continue talking about what women are capable of.

"I want a world where a girl pictures a doctor and she pictures a woman," Alma said.

Bair and Sue said women need to continue to grow and push boundaries placed by society. They also said it's important for women to uplift and encourage other women when pursuing their dreams.

Eke said, on the Human Rights Committee, she recently investigated a case about a woman whose rights were violated by her landlord.

The case was taken to court. Eke said she was the only person who supported the woman along the way, but unfortunately, the landlord won the case.

"A lot of times (cases) involve women ... who are very vulnerable ... women who have fixed income," Eke said. "Then people prey on them and assume that they don't know their rights."

Women in the workplace

Agardy said managing a small business came with a lot of challenges like making business decisions, investing and receiving grants.

Her husband is her partner in business decision making she said.

"It means that one of us is almost always working and the other one of us is with kids," Agardy said. "It impacts your relationships ... you're finding that balance between your relationship and working life."

While balancing life and work, Agardy said her kids come to work sometimes. She said they would wash the dishes, shovel the sidewalk or mow the lawn.

"It does become family bonding," Agardy said.

In the CMU's geology department, most employees are women and relatively young, Agardy said. Women in science, both as students and faculty, has been a "huge demographic shift of the younger generations," she said.

"I get so much inspiration from the next generation," Agardy said. "I see a new population that is interested in science ... It also means (there is a) variety of perspectives (coming) to the workplace."

Regarding changes she would like to see within the United States, Agardy said workplaces should have more vacation time and better maternity leave.



Trent Reinke | Staff photographer
Rachael Agardy poses in her office, Room 308, Brooks Hall, on the campus of Central Michigan University, Tuesday, March 28, 2023.



Abby Jenkins | Staff photographer
Co-owners of For Art's Sake and Megan Bair (left) and Lisa Sue (right) pose together inside the Splatter Room of their store on Friday, March 24.

According to the Center for American Progress, a person in the United States could take up to 12 weeks of maternity leave. However, almost half of all employees are not eligible for family leaves, the article said.

Advice to other women

Agardy said women should go after what they want.

"I feel that I'm more rewarded in having my own business," Agardy said.

Eke advised young women to pursue what they like and accept opportunities that come along the way.

"You can do anything," Sue said. "The people you look up to, the person you think is amazing? They're just (like) you. They just didn't give up."

Bair also said it is important to find the right people who will support you, trust you and give honest feedback.

Alma said that even if something seems like too big of a dream, to just go for it.

"When opportunities come up, take them," Alma said. "Don't be afraid to go big."

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GAMING

Review: 'Resident Evil 4' A campy horror adventure I can't put down

By Michael Gonzalez
Podcast Editor

In 2005, Capcom released an exclusive for the Nintendo GameCube called "Resident Evil 4." As the first numbered title to release for the newer console generation, fans of the series were excited to see fan-favorite Leon Kennedy venturing through Spain. At the same time, they were rightfully skeptical after seeing its complete shift in gameplay.

After all, it was the pioneer of the over-the-shoulder, third-person action that many games use to this day. Before then, every "Resident Evil" title had fixed camera angles and a focus on puzzles rather than action.

However, once the game was released, all of those worries went away. To this day, many consider "Resident Evil 4" a masterpiece of the medium and is often looked at as a revolutionary title for the industry.

Just like 2005, the remake of "Resident Evil 4" was met with skepticism on its March 24 release date. Fans were divided on their decision to remake such a definitive game. Some fans said it was unnecessary while others argued that its dated gameplay warranted a reiteration.

And just like its 2005 release, the remake came out as a major success.

"Resident Evil 4" (2023) is a game that truly lives up to its legacy and then some. From its campy dialogue and phenomenal gunplay to its terrifying creatures and wacky suplexes, it's a game that I can't put down, even after 20 hours of playing.

Like the original game, "Resident Evil 4" (2023) sets the player as Leon Kennedy, who is going out into the rural outskirts of Spain to find the President of the United States' daughter, Ashley Graham. After things go awry with

a few violent locals, players come face-to-face with a countryside filled with a hive-minded horde of villagers and cult-leaders.

Before players are even given time to practice their aiming and shooting, their skills are put to the test as they fight what is essentially a sea of pitchforks, scythes and chainsaws. Things may go well at first, as you fight your way through the hordes.

But they can get bad really quickly.

In this iteration of the game, enemy AI is built to compliment Leon's quicker fighting capabilities and creates scenarios where players can easily get flanked and pinned down. This first major skirmish sees Leon getting stabbed with knives, pierced with pitchforks, and every now and then a villager may hold Leon's arms back as the chainsaw man targets his stomach for an instant-death.

"Resident Evil 4" (2023) never hides its intentions and is very transparent in what it wants the player to do. In this game your only purpose is to get Ashley and get out. As the plot derails into a sea of chaos, your basic mechanics are constantly put in a trial-by-fire and you're meant to experiment with each ability. So many guns and ammunition are handed out that it's okay to waste a few bullets to try something new.

The best part about these fights? Hearing Leon say cheesy one-liners as he takes down another enemy. One of "Resident Evil's" main staples that made me fall in love with the series back in 2016 was its blend of intense horror elements and B-grade action and dialogue.

It's what made the original "Resident Evil 4" so great for fans. Many can still recall Leon saying really lame lines such as "No thanks, bro" and "Where's everyone going? Bingo?" The best part is that most of these lines remain in the game, but this time around combat

and story are refined to fit in with some of the series' other remakes.

Everything has a personality now, including its enemies. As you fight the parasitic hivemind that's burrowed into the bodies around this rural landscape, Leon learns more and more about what happened and how many leaders used their power to corrupt the masses surrounding them.

It's a feeling of true claustrophobia that was never really felt in the original. Now, it really seems like there's no escape from this nightmare, as everybody within 100 miles has been infected.

Well, mostly everyone.

There are some friendly faces that you'll meet along the way. Take Luis, a local man who's shrouded in mystery. He's managed to get around without a swarm taking him in to get a parasitic booster. In the original game, he never really had a backstory and remained a mystery.

Now, "Resident Evil 4" (2023) had the time to fully flesh out these characters. Luis is given a backstory that works really well and, overall, made me appreciate his character and lines even more. Everybody in Resident Evil has some dark story behind them, but their cheesy dialogue would never give you that impression.

The only downsides I encountered were two moments where I felt overwhelmed and frustrated with the amount of attacks that were incoming. While I was ready to mark it down for these gripes, I decided to go back to



Courtesy image | Capcom Production Studio 4

'Resident Evil 4' features high-quality graphics and enhanced interactive features, as illustrated by this screen capture by Podcast Editor Michael Gozalez.

the game in a new file and see if I had as much trouble as I did in my first run. Because I knew about these moments and already had a game plan to get through, it barely posed as an issue.

And that's what makes this remake a true success: So many great moments in the original were tarnished with dated combat and thin storylines, and I could never truly love it like the other titles.

The remake changes everything. It's like redoing a paper that may have already achieved a 90%, but the changes turn it into the 100% it was always meant to be.

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Emeritus professor John 'Jack' Hartman dies at 77

John K. "Jack" Hartman of rural Powell, Ohio, died March 9, at age 77.

An emeritus professor of journalism and member of the Journalism Hall of Fame at Central Michigan University, and a distinguished alumnus of the Ashland Ohio City Schools, Hartman was known for his 20 years of service on the Bowling Green, Ohio Board of Education; his two books about the national newspaper USA TODAY; and his visiting professorship at King Saud University.

John Kenneth Hartman was born Dec. 30, 1945, in Ashland. He graduated from Ashland High School (1963) and earned three degrees from Bowling Green State University: a bachelor's of business administration in journalism (1967); a master's in radio-TV-film (1977); and a doctor of philosophy in interpersonal and public communication (1986). His career highlights included: sports editor, Ashland Times-Gazette, 1968-1971; public information officer, Ohio Department of Transportation, 1971-1974; instructor of journalism, Bowling Green State University, 1977-1979; copy editor, Toledo Blade, 1980-1984; professor of journalism, Central Michigan University, 1984-2015; and columnist, Columbus Free Press, 2015-2023.

Hartman is survived by his wife of 55 years, Kay Lynn Franks Hartman, his childhood sweetheart. They were married on June 11, 1967, at First United Methodist Church in Ashland.

OBITUARY

He is also survived by three daughters Kimberly Hartman Brueck (Jeremy) of Green, Ohio, Alicia Hartman Wolshire (Jayson) of Dublin, Ohio, and Jacqueline Hartman Ashley (John) of Chapel Hill, North Carolina; by seven grandchildren: Isaac Edward Kinaitis, Ian Matthew Kinaitis, Adam Jayson Wolshire, Ella Hartman Wolshire, Aiden Timothy Brueck, Samantha Harper Ashley and Paige Sophia Ashley; by two sisters Ruth Arlene Hartman Morr (William) of Colorado Springs, Colorado, and Nora Kathryn Hartman Kelting (Michael) of Newton, Kansas; and by his cousin Patricia Morris of Lake Tahoe, California. He was preceded in death by his parents Harvey Hamill Hartman and Kathryn Jane Timmons Hartman.

The family will receive visitors 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. Friday at Rutherford Funer-

al Home at Powell, 450 W. Olentangy St., Powell, Ohio, 43065.

In lieu of flowers, memorial tributes may be made to a charity of the donor's choice or those listed in the online obituary at rutherfordfuneralhomes.com/obituaries/John-Hartman-24/#!/Obituary.

Editor's note: Obituary courtesy of Rutherford Funeral Homes at Powell in Powell, Ohio.

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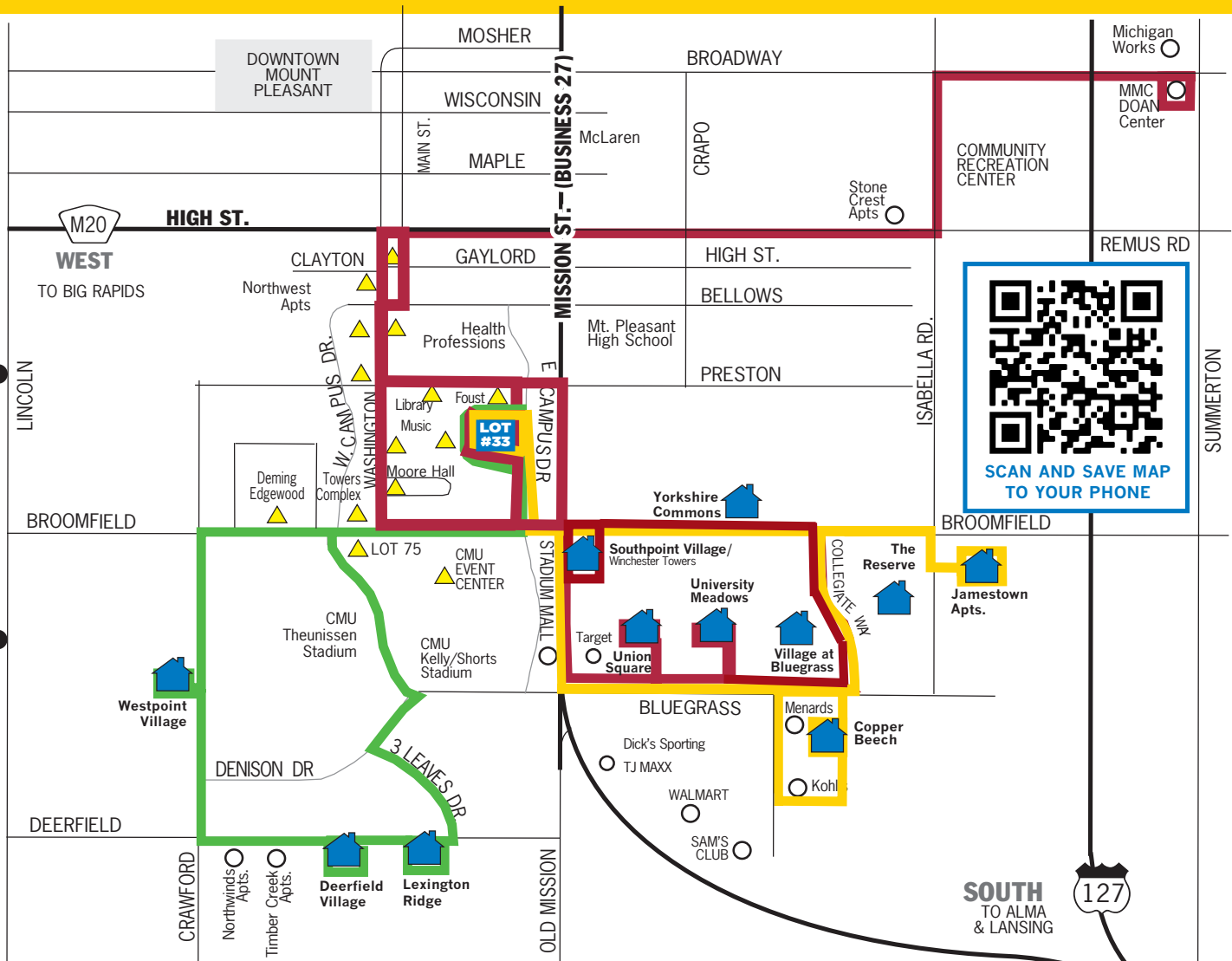
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